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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for September 27-28, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

#### POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

OZGUR GUNDEM: Reportedly, fragments of a flare fired by soldiers at night killed a 15-year-old child sitting on the balcony of his house in Van's Bostanici district.

RADIKAL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Relatives of the inmates of Adana's Kurkculer Jail claimed that the inmates, especially women, serving prison sentences for being members of a terrorist organization, have been subjected to more torture in recent days.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Diyarbakir Bar Association's Chairperson Sezgin Tanrikulu said that the newly drafted anti-terror law envisaged stricter restrictions than the current law. According to Tanrikulu, the law should be completely abolished rather than trying to extend its restrictions.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily reported that the PKK called for village guards not to participate in military operations. Reportedly, military operations have been continuing in Tunceli, Agri, Diyarbakir and Sirnak provinces.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): The Hatay Airport construction project, which has continued without completion for 14 years, will get a shot in the arm following transfer of responsibility for the project from the Provincial Administration Authority to Ministry of Transportation, said the Hatay Governor.

BOLGE: The members of Mersin Liman-Is (Port Workers' Union) temporarily ended their 76-day strike. The strike was initiated against the privatization of the port. A recent ruling by a local administrative court to stop the privatization process brought about the decision to end the strike.

RADIKAL / SABAH: According to figures provided by the Ministry of Interior, one out of every fifteen village guards is involved in criminal acts. The village guard system was introduced in late 1980s to counter terrorism activities in Southeastern Turkey.

#### MILLIYET ONLINE VERSION

: Walter  
Scott Reid's (U.S. Consul in Adana) attempt to greet with a kiss even the AKP's women's branch chairperson reportedly came as bit of shock to her and to party members, who were welcoming him at the entrance of the party building in Diyarbakir as Mr. Reid was paying a visit to the party administration in the city. Reportedly the lady refrained from the kiss, and only shook hands with the Consul. (Note: Despite the lady's position in a line of people greeting the Consul, the paper reported that the lady was actually not greeting him. End Note.)

OZGUR GUNDEM: A bus, which started touring Turkey to draw attention to the campaign to end violence against women, will finish its travel when it arrives in Diyarbakir on October 1.

RADIKAL / OZGUR GUNDEM: A new investigation has been filed against DEHAP National Chairperson on grounds that he incited unlawful acts with speeches he made following the flaring up of tension in Bilecik's Bozuyuk district early in September.

RADIKAL: The relatives of Gunay Soyer, a person from Adana who was working in Mosul in Iraq as a gas pumper, claimed that U.S. soldiers arrested Soyer on the charges that he was an "agent".

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. BOLGE: A delegation of Turkish origin businessmen from Iraq, in order to foster commercial relationships, will come to Gaziantep on September 29 to visit their counterparts there.

2. BOLGE / EKSPRES: Fethi Coskuntuncel, Chairperson of Adan

Chamber of Commodity Exchange, said that this year's cotton harvest would reach up to 3,930,000 tons. According to Coskuntuncel, this year's cotton harvest will be 600,000 tons short of expectations. Coskuntuncel urged Cukobirlik

(Cooperative for Agricultural Sales) to announce its cotton prices.

REID